

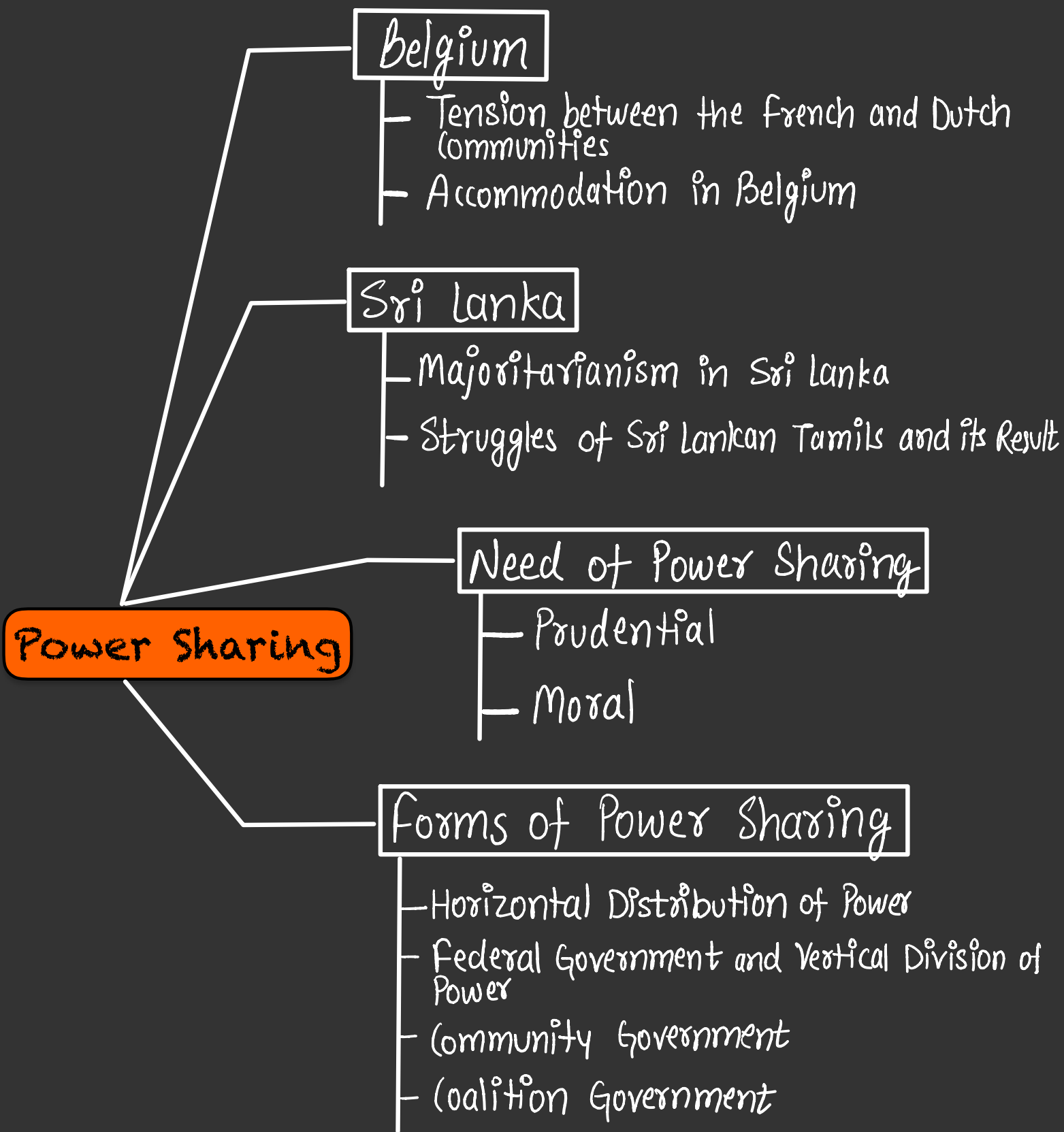
SHOBHIT NIRWAN's
DESIGNED



POWER SHARING

NEW NOTES FOR CLASS 10 2022 EXAMS

**Including NCERT Line-By-Line Questions
PYQs in MCQ Format
CBSE Sample Paper
Flowchart**



Power sharing among the three organs of state - Legislature, Executive and Judiciary is very important for the proper functioning of the democracy.

Belgium

(K3P) Ethnic
A social division based on shared culture.

- It is a federal state in Western Europe.
- Capital - Brussels (Headquarter of European Union)
- Neighbours - France, Germany, Netherlands and Luxembourg.
- Ethnic Composition:
 - 59% Dutch speakers who live in Flemish region (North Belgium).
 - 40% French speakers who live in Wallonia region (South Belgium).
 - 1% German speakers.
 - But in Brussels 80% French speakers and 20% Dutch speakers.

Tension between the French and Dutch Communities-

- The minority French speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. This made the Dutch-speaking community angry who got the benefit of economic development and education much later.
- Special problem in capital Brussels was that the Dutch community was in majority in the whole country but minority in the capital.

Accommodation in Belgium:

The leaders recognised the regional differences and cultural diversity. The constitution was amended four times between 1970 to 1993 to ensure that different communities can live in the same nation.

- The constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French speaking ministers shall be equal in numbers in central government.
- Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. No single community can take decisions unilaterally.
- Many of the powers of central government was given to the state government of the two regions of the country. The state government was not subordinate to the central government.
- Brussels has a separate government which has an equal representation of both the communities. The French community accepted the equal representation in the Brussels as the Dutch community accepted the equal representation in central government.
- Apart from central and state government there is a third kind of government. It is elected by the people belonging to one language French, Dutch and German, no matter where they live. This government has power based on cultural, educational and language related issues.

Sri Lanka

- Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, few kilometres away from southern coast of Tamil Nadu.
- Ethnic Composition:
 - 74% Sinhala speakers. Most of the Sinhala speakers are Buddhists.
 - 18% Tamil speakers. Most of the Tamil speakers are Hindu or Muslim.
 - Tamil speakers have subgroups. One the native Tamils of the country Sri Lankan Tamils, other whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period called Indian Tamils.
 - There are 7% Christians who are both Sinhala and Tamil.

Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka: *A belief that the majority community should rule the country in whichever way it wants, disregarding the needs and wishes of minority.*

- Sri Lanka emerged as an independent nation in 1948. The Sinhala leaders sought to secure their dominance over government by virtue of their majority. They took majoritarian measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.
- In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language of Sri Lanka.
 - The government followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs.
 - A new constitution stipulated that the state government shall protect and foster Buddhism.
 - All these government measures increased the feeling of alienation among Tamils.
 - They felt that none of major political party led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture.
 - They felt that constitution and government denied from equal rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and opportunities and ignored their interests.

Struggles of Sri Lankan Tamils and its Result:

- Tamils launched parties and struggles for recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing jobs and education.
- Their demands for more regional autonomy to provinces populated by Tamils were repeatedly denied.
- By 1980s, several political organisations were formed demanding a separate independent Tamil Eelam (state) in the northern and eastern part of the country.
- The distrust between both the communities turned into a civil war. As a result, thousand of people of both the communities were killed, many families were forced to leave the nation as refugees and many lost their livelihood.
- The civil war caused a terrible setback to the social, economic and cultural life of the country.

Reasons/Need for Power Sharing

PRUDENTIAL:

Firstly, power sharing is good because it reduces the possibilities of conflict between social groups. Social conflict often leads to violence and political instability. Power sharing is a good way to ensure stability of political order.

Moral:

Secondly, power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with citizens affected by its exercise or who will live with its effects. A legitimate government is one where citizens through participation acquire stake in the system.

Forms/Types of Power Sharing

(I) Horizontal Sharing of Power: [cbse 2016]

It means sharing of power with different bodies of government placed at some level which are executive, legislature and judiciary. It ensures that no organ exercises unlimited power and check the working of each other. This system is also called system of checks and balances.

(II) Vertical Division of Power:

It means division of power between different governments placed at different levels, constitution lays down the power of different government at different levels. This is also called federal division of power. The same principle can be extended to lower levels of government like the Municipality and Panchayat.

(III) Community Government:

Power can be shared among different social groups like religious and linguistic groups. This arrangement is meant to give space in government and administration to diverse social groups and minorities who otherwise would feel alienated from government. Examples are community government in Belgium and reservation system in India for weaker sections of society.

(IV) Coalition Government:

Power sharing arrangement can also be seen in a way, political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence these in powers. A government formed by the coming together of at least two parties is called coalition government.

Power-sharing

Overview

With this chapter, we resume the tour of democracy that we started last year. We noted last year that in a democracy all power does not rest with any one organ of the government. An intelligent sharing of power among legislature, executive and judiciary is very important to the design of a democracy. In this and the next two chapters, we carry this idea of power-sharing forward. We start with two stories from Belgium and Sri Lanka. Both these stories are about how democracies handle demands for power-sharing. The stories yield some general conclusions about the need for power-sharing in democracy. This allows us to discuss various forms of power-sharing that will be taken up in the following two chapters.

Chapter I

- Q1. Belgium has shared its territories with which countries?
- Q2. Belgium has a population of over?
- Q3. What part of Belgium's population lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch?
- Q4. What part of Belgium's population lives in the Wallonia region and speaks French?
- Q5. What part of Belgium's population lives in the Belgians and speaks German?
- Q6. What part of Brussels' population speaks French?
- Q7. What part of Brussels' population speaks Dutch?
- Q8. What part of Sri Lanka's population speaks Sinhala?
- Q9. What part of Brussels' population speaks Tamil?

Belgium and Sri Lanka

I have a simple equation in mind. Sharing power = dividing power = weakening the country. Why do we start by talking of this?



Belgium is a small country in Europe, smaller in area than the state of Haryana. It has borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. It has a population of a little over one crore, about half the population of Haryana. The **ETHNIC** composition of this small country, is very complex. Of the country's total population, 59 per cent lives in the Flemish region and speaks Dutch language. Another 40 per cent people live in the Wallonia region and speak French. Remaining one per cent of the Belgians speak German. In the capital city Brussels, 80 per cent people speak French while 20 per cent are Dutch-speaking.

The minority French-speaking community was relatively rich and powerful. This was resented by the Dutch-speaking community who got the benefit of economic development

and education much later. This led to tensions between the Dutch-speaking and French-speaking communities during the 1950s and 1960s. The tension between the two communities was more acute in Brussels. Brussels presented a special problem: the Dutch-speaking people constituted a majority in the country, but a minority in the capital.

Let us compare this to the situation in another country. Sri Lanka is an island nation, just a few kilometres off the southern coast of Tamil Nadu. It has about two crore people, about the same as in Haryana. Like other nations in the South Asia region, Sri Lanka has a diverse population. The major social groups are the Sinhala-speakers (74 per cent) and the Tamil-speakers (18 per cent). Among Tamils there are two sub-groups. Tamil natives of the country

Q10. In which year the act of recognising Sinhala as the only official language in Sri Lanka was passed?

Q11. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority is known as?

are called 'Sri Lankan Tamils' (13 per cent).

The rest, whose forefathers came from India as plantation workers during colonial period, are called 'Indian Tamils'.

As you can see from the map, Sri Lankan Tamils are concentrated in the north and east of the country. Most of the Sinhala-speaking people are Buddhists, while most of the Tamils are Hindus or Muslims. There are about 7 per cent Christians, who are both Tamil and Sinhala.

Just imagine what could happen in situations like this. In Belgium, the

Dutch community could take advantage of its numeric majority and force its will on the French and German-speaking population. This would push the conflict among communities further. This could lead to a very messy partition of the country; both the sides would claim control over Brussels. In Sri Lanka, the Sinhala community enjoyed an even bigger majority and could impose its will on the entire country. Now, let us look at what happened in both these countries.

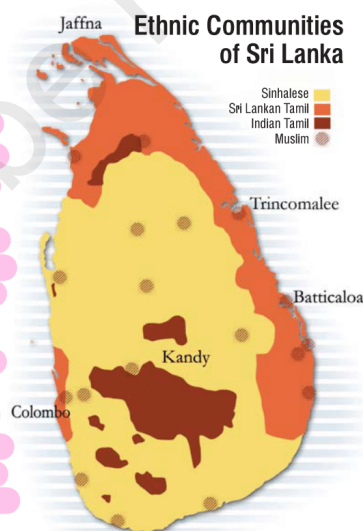
Majoritarianism in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in 1948. The leaders of the Sinhala community sought to secure dominance over government by virtue of their majority. As a result, the democratically elected government adopted a series of **MAJORITARIAN** measures to establish Sinhala supremacy.

In 1956, an Act was passed to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, thus disregarding Tamil. The governments followed preferential policies that favoured Sinhala applicants for university positions and government jobs. A new constitution stipulated that the state shall protect and foster Buddhism.

All these government measures, coming one after the other, gradually increased the feeling of alienation among the Sri Lankan Tamils. They felt that none of the major political parties led by the Buddhist Sinhala leaders was sensitive to their language and culture. They felt that the constitution and

government policies denied them equal political rights, discriminated against them in getting jobs and other opportunities and ignored their interests. As a result, the relations



Glossary

Majoritarianism: A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority.

Q12. What was the name of the state that was demanded in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka?

Q13. A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war is known as?

What's wrong if the majority community rules? If Sinhalas don't rule in Sri Lanka, where else will they rule?



between the Sinhala and Tamil communities strained over time.

The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil as an official language, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in securing education and jobs. But their demand for more autonomy to provinces populated by the Tamils was repeatedly denied. By 1980s several political organisations were formed demanding an independent Tamil Eelam (state) in northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka.

The distrust between the two communities turned into widespread conflict. It soon turned into a **CIVIL WAR**.

As a result thousands of people of both the communities have been killed. Many families were forced to leave the country as refugees and many more lost their livelihoods. You have read (Chapter 1 of Economics textbook, Class X) about Sri Lanka's excellent record of economic development, education and health. But the civil war has caused a terrible setback to the social, cultural and economic life of the country.

Accommodation in Belgium

The Belgian leaders took a different path. They recognised the existence of regional differences and cultural diversities. Between 1970 and 1993, they amended their constitution four times so as to work out an arrangement that would enable everyone to live together within the same country. The arrangement they worked out is different from any other country and is very innovative. Here are some of the elements of the Belgian model:

- Constitution prescribes that the number of Dutch and French-speaking ministers shall be equal in the central government. Some special laws require the support of majority of members from each linguistic group. Thus, no

single community can make decisions unilaterally.

- Many powers of the central government have been given to state governments of the two regions of the country. The state governments are not subordinate to the Central Government.

- Brussels has a separate government in which both the communities have equal representation. The French-speaking people accepted equal representation in Brussels because the Dutch-speaking community has accepted equal representation in the Central Government.

Glossary

Civil war: A violent conflict between opposing groups within a country that becomes so intense that it appears like a war.

What kind of a solution is this? I am glad our Constitution does not say which minister will come from which community.



The photograph here is of a street address in Belgium. You will notice that place names and directions in two languages – French and Dutch.

● Apart from the Central and the State Government, there is a third kind of government. This 'community government' is elected by people belonging to one language community – Dutch, French and German-speaking – no matter where they live. This government has the power regarding cultural, educational and language-related issues.

You might find the Belgian model very complicated. It indeed is very complicated, even for people living in Belgium. But these arrangements have worked well so far. They helped to avoid civic strife between the two major communities and a possible division of the country on linguistic lines. When many countries of Europe came together to form the European



European Union Parliament in Belgium

Union, Brussels was chosen as its headquarters.



- Read any newspaper for one week and make clippings of news related to ongoing conflicts or wars. A group of five students could pool their clippings together and do the following:
- Classify these conflicts by their location (your state, India, outside India).
 - Find out the cause of each of these conflicts. How many of these are related to power sharing disputes?
 - Which of these conflicts could be resolved by working out power sharing arrangements?

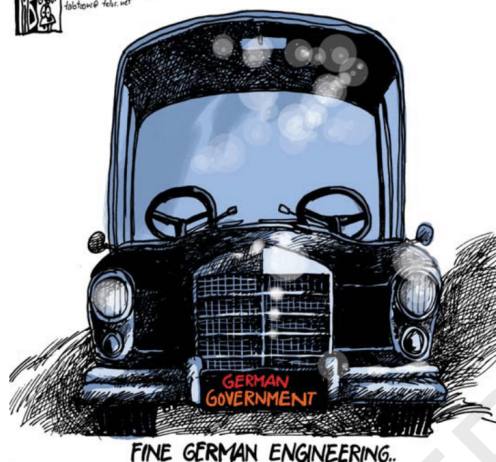
So you are saying that sharing of power makes us more powerful. Sounds odd! Let me think.



What do we learn from these two stories of Belgium and Sri Lanka? Both are democracies. Yet, they dealt with the question of power sharing differently. In Belgium, the leaders have realised that the unity of the country is possible only by respecting the feelings and interests of different communities and

regions. Such a realisation resulted in mutually acceptable arrangements for sharing power. Sri Lanka shows us a contrasting example. It shows us that if a majority community wants to force its dominance over others and refuses to share power, it can undermine the unity of the country.

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The cartoon at the left refers to the problems of running the Germany's grand coalition government that includes the two major parties of the country, namely the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party. The two parties are historically rivals to each other. They had to form a coalition government because neither of them got clear majority of seats on their own in the 2005 elections. They take divergent positions on several policy matters, but still jointly run the government.

Tyranny of the majority is not just oppressive for the minority; it often brings ruin to the majority as well.

There is a second, deeper reason why power sharing is good for democracies. Power sharing is the very spirit of democracy. A democratic rule involves sharing power with those affected by its exercise, and who have to live with its effects. People have a right to be consulted on how they are to be governed. A legitimate government is one where citizens, through participation, acquire a stake in the system.

Let us call the first set of reasons **PRUDENTIAL** and the second moral. While prudential reasons stress that power sharing will bring out better outcomes, moral reasons emphasise the very act of power sharing as valuable.

Why power sharing is desirable?

Thus, two different sets of reasons can be given in favour of power sharing. Firstly, power sharing is good because it helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups. Since social conflict often leads to violence and political instability, power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order. Imposing the will of majority community over others may look like an attractive option in the short run, but in the long run it undermines the unity of the nation.



Glossary

Prudential: Based on prudence, or on careful calculation of gains and losses. Prudential decisions are usually contrasted with decisions based purely on moral considerations.

Annette studies in a Dutch medium school in the northern region of Belgium. Many French-speaking students in her school want the medium of instruction to be French. Selvi studies in a school in the northern region of Sri Lanka. All the students in her school are Tamil-speaking and they want the medium of instruction to be Tamil.

- If the parents of Annette and Selvi were to approach respective governments to realise the desire of the child who is more likely to succeed? And why?

Khalil's dilemma

As usual, Vikram was driving the motorbike under a vow of silence and Vetal was the pillion rider. As usual, Vetal started telling Vikram a story to keep him awake while driving. This time the story went as follows:

"In the city of Beirut there lived a man called Khalil. His parents came from different communities. His father was an Orthodox Christian and mother a Sunni Muslim. This was not so uncommon in this modern, cosmopolitan city. People from various communities that lived in Lebanon came to live in its capital, Beirut. They lived together, intermingled, yet fought a bitter civil war among themselves. One of Khalil's uncles was killed in that war.

At the end of this civil war, Lebanon's leaders came together and agreed to some basic rules for power sharing among different communities. As per these rules, the country's President must belong to the Maronite sect of Catholic Christians. The Prime Minister must be from the Sunni Muslim community. The post of Deputy Prime Minister is fixed for Orthodox Christian sect and that of the Speaker for Shi'a Muslims. Under this pact, the Christians agreed not to seek French protection and the Muslims agreed not to seek unification with the neighbouring state of Syria. When the Christians and Muslims came to this agreement, they were nearly equal in population. Both sides have continued to respect this agreement though now the Muslims are in clear majority.

Khalil does not like this system one bit. He is a popular man with political ambition. But under the present system the top position is out of his reach. He does not practise either his father's or his mother's religion and does not wish to be known by either. He cannot understand why Lebanon can't be like any other 'normal' democracy. "Just hold an election, allow everyone to contest and whoever wins maximum votes becomes the president, no matter which community he comes from. Why can't we do that, like in other democracies of the world?" he asks. His elders, who have seen the bloodshed of the civil war, tell him that the present system is the best guarantee for peace..."

The story was not finished, but they had reached the TV tower where they stopped every day. Vetal wrapped up quickly and posed his customary question to Vikram: "If you had the power to rewrite the rules in Lebanon, what would you do? Would you adopt the 'regular' rules followed everywhere, as Khalil suggests? Or stick to the old rules? Or do something else?" Vetal did not forget to remind Vikram of their basic pact: "If you have an answer in mind and yet do not speak up, your mobike will freeze, and so will you!"

Can you help poor Vikram in answering Vetal?



Q14. What are the different organs of government among which power is shared?

Q15. What is the arrangement in which different organs check the functioning of executive or laws made by each other?

Forms of power-sharing

The idea of power-sharing has emerged in opposition to the notions of undivided political power. For a long time it was believed that all power of a government must reside in one person or group of persons located at one place. It was felt that if the power to decide is dispersed, it would not be possible to take quick decisions and to enforce them. But these notions have changed with the emergence of democracy. One basic principle of democracy is that people are the source of all political power. In a democracy, people rule themselves through institutions of self-government. In a good democratic government, due respect is given to diverse groups and views that exist in a society. Everyone has a voice in the shaping of public policies. Therefore, it follows that in a democracy political

power should be distributed among as many citizens as possible.

In modern democracies, power sharing arrangements can take many forms. Let us look at some of the most common arrangements that we have or will come across.

1 Power is shared among different organs of government, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. Let us call this horizontal distribution of power because it allows different organs of government placed at the same level to exercise different powers. Such a separation ensures that none of the organs can exercise unlimited power. Each organ checks the others. This results in a balance of power among various institutions. Last year, we studied that in a democracy, even though ministers and government officials exercise power, they are responsible to the Parliament or State Assemblies. Similarly, although judges are appointed by the executive, they can check the functioning of executive or laws made by the legislatures. This arrangement is called a system of checks and balances.

2 Power can be shared among governments at different levels – a general government for the entire country and governments at the provincial or regional level. Such a general government for the entire country is usually called federal government. In India, we refer to it as the Central or Union Government. The governments at the provincial or regional level are called by different names in different countries. In India,

Reigning the Reins



In 2005, some new laws were made in Russia giving more powers to its president. During the same time the US president visited Russia. What, according to this cartoon, is the relationship between democracy and concentration of power? Can you think of some other examples to illustrate the point being made here?

Q14. What are the different organs of government among which power is shared?

Q15. What is the arrangement in which different organs check the functioning of executive or laws made by each other?

Q16. In India what are the governments at the provincial or regional level called by?

Forms of power-sharing

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we call them State Governments. This system is not followed in all countries. There are many countries where there are no provincial or state governments. But in those countries like ours, where there are different levels of government, the constitution clearly lays down the powers of different levels of government. This is what they did in Belgium, but was refused in Sri Lanka. This is called federal division of power. The same principle can be extended to levels of government lower than the State government, such as the municipality and panchayat. Let us call division of powers involving higher and lower levels of government vertical division of power. We shall study these at some length in the next chapter.

3 Power may also be shared among different social groups such as the religious and linguistic groups. 'Community government' in Belgium is a good example of this arrangement. In some countries there are constitutional and legal arrangements whereby socially weaker sections and women are represented in the legislatures and administration. Last year, we studied the system of 'reserved constituencies' in assemblies and the parliament of our country. This type of arrangement is meant to give space in the government and administration to diverse social groups who otherwise

would feel alienated from the government. This method is used to give minority communities a fair share in power. In Unit II, we shall look at various ways of accommodating social diversities.

4 Power sharing arrangements can also be seen in the way political parties, pressure groups and movements control or influence those in power. In a democracy, the citizens must have freedom to choose among various contenders for power. In contemporary democracies, this takes the form of competition among different parties. Such competition ensures that power does not remain in one hand. In the long run, power is shared among different political parties that represent different ideologies and social groups. Sometimes this kind of sharing can be direct, when two or more parties form an alliance to contest elections. If their alliance is elected, they form a coalition government and thus share power. In a democracy, we find interest groups such as those of traders, businessmen, industrialists, farmers and industrial workers. They also will have a share in governmental power, either through participation in governmental committees or bringing influence on the decision-making process. In Unit III, we shall study the working of political parties, pressure groups and social movements.



In my school, the class monitor changes every month. Is that what you call a power sharing arrangement?

ANSWERS(POWER SHARING)

Ans1. France, Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg

Ans2. 1 Crore

Ans3. 59%

Ans4. 40%

Ans5. 1%

Ans6. 80%

Ans7. 20%

Ans8. 74%

Ans9. 18%

Ans10. 1956

Ans11. Majoritarianism

Ans12. Talim Eelam

Ans13. Civil war

Ans14. Legislature, executive and judiciary

Ans15. System of checks and balances

Ans16. State Govt.

PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

SPECIALLY CONVERTED IN MCQ FORMAT

1. A belief that the majority community should be able to rule a country in whichever way it wants, by disregarding the wishes and needs of the minority. (2021)

- A) Ethnicity
- B) Majoritarianism
- C) Dictatorship
- D) Democracy

2. A social division based on shared culture/ people belonging to the same ethnic group believes in their common descent is known as Ethnicity. (2021)

- A) True
- B) False

3. In Sri Lanka, an Act was passed in _____ to recognise Sinhala as the only official language, disregarding Tamil. (2020)

- A) 1964
- B) 1952
- C) 1956
- D) 1950

4. Belgium is a small country in Europe and share borders with_____ (2020)

- A) America , Germany , France and Switzerland
- B) America , the Netherlands , France and Luxembourg
- C) America , Switzerland , France and Germany
- D) France, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg

5. Recognize the form of power sharing which is represented by the Community Government in Belgium. (2019)

- A) Linguistic groups
- B) Religious groups
- C) Both of these
- D) None of these

6. The measures of the act of 1956 introduced by _____ Government made the Sri Lankan Tamils feel alienated. (2019)

- A) Tamil
- B) Sinhalese
- C) Indian
- D) Pakistani

7. Sri Lanka emerged as an independent country in _____. (2015)

- A) 1940
- B) 1943
- C) 1957
- D) 1948

8. The horizontal distribution of power ensures that power is shared among different organs of government – (2015)

- A) Legislature
- B) Executive
- C) Judiciary
- D) All of these

9. In 1956, an Act was passed to make _____ the official Language. (2014)

- A) Tamil
- B) Hindi
- C) Sinhala
- D) None of these

10. What is the language spoken by the people residing in the Wallonia region of Belgium? (2014)

- A) French
- B) Dutch
- C) German
- D) Belgium

11. Is it wrong if a majority community in a country rules? (2018)

- A) Yes
- B) No

12. The Sri Lankan Tamils launched parties and struggles for the recognition of Tamil, for regional autonomy and equality of opportunity in every field. (2013)

- A) True
- B) False

13. Power sharing is desirable in democracy because – (2012)

- A) It helps to reduce the possibility of conflict between social groups
- B) Conflict between social groups leads to violence and political Instability
- C) Power sharing is a good way to ensure the stability of political order.
- D) All of these

14. Between 1970 and 1993, the Constitution was amended _____ times to enable all linguistic groups to live together within the same country. (2012)

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five

15. 'Power sharing is the essence of a democratic government.' (2021)

- A) True
- B) False

16. Dutch and French speaking ministers got _____ in the central govt. (2020)

- A) Equal
- B) Unequal

17. 'Democracy is based on the idea of _____ and _____'. (2020)

- A) Deliberation, Negotiation
- B) Negotiation, Deliberation

18. 'Respect and equal treatment of women are necessary ingredients of a democratic society'. (2020)

- A) True
- B) False

19. Belgium is a very small country in _____. (2019)

- A) Asia
- B) Europe
- C) Africa
- D) USA

20. The social composition of the population of Sri Lanka is Sinhala speaking – (2019)

- A) 60%
- B) 59%
- C) 85%
- D) 74%

21. "Power Sharing is the very spirit of democracy". (2015)

- A) True
- B) False

22. The Constitution provided for State protection and fostering of _____. (2014)

- A) Hinduism
- B) Buddhism
- C) Christian
- D) Jainism

ANSWERS:

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. A
11. A
12. A
13. D
14. C
15. A
16. A
17. A
18. A
19. B
20. D
21. A
22. B